

**Presentation to the  
Workforce and Talent Development Subcommittee  
April 14, 2016  
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**Purpose of Testimony:** To propose the need for additional legislative action to support and encourage alternative means for Michigan high school students to fulfill the current high school graduation requirement for earning Algebra II credit.

**Brief History:**

Michigan Merit Curriculum  
4 credits in mathematics

**Problems and Unintended Consequences:**

Mounting failures  
Local district "solutions"  
Patchwork quilt of mathematics courses and materials  
Significant barrier to enrollment of Career and Technical Education Programs

**Typical Enacted Programs:**

Proposals to differentiate time, differences in use of materials, courses designed for providing "interventions and credit recovery", false sense of easy supplemental instruction

**Flexibility – Options:**

(2014-2015)

Flexibility provisions introduced to grant core academic credit(s) through successful completion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

"Completers" of CTE courses may earn Foreign Language, English, Mathematics, and Science credits.

**Continued Challenges and Barriers:**

Early timeframe for scheduling enrollment and course selection for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders

Example: Algebra I credit earned for grades 6-8 passage of content

Well-intended teachers (repeating coursework for B- and below students)

CTE program enrollment incentives and hindrances for 9<sup>th</sup> graders

Self-perception that poor academic achievement in mathematics means inadequate achievement outside of school life

### **Proposed Solutions and Rationale for New Bill**

Eliminate Algebra II graduation requirement

Provide greater course enrollment options and alternatives to Algebra II credit requirement

### **Suggestions for Alternatives for Earning Algebra II Credit**

Statistics in an Applied World

Courses in Applied Statistics

Finance, Investing and Money Markets

Senior year project involving mathematics

Independent study in applied mathematics

Teaching assistants to high school instructors

Work-based learning logs of mathematics used in present positions

Other options up for debate!!

### **Questions**